

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY SOFIA PRIORITY
USMISSION USNATO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BERLIN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI PRIORITY

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USSALTTWO/CTB

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TAGS:PARM, SOPN

SUBJECT: AUGUST 10 ROUNDUP: PRESS ITEMS OF ARMS CONTROL
INTEREST

LONDON FOR AMB/EX, SOFIA FOR AMBASSADOR

1. UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL REPORTED THAT TWO LIBERAL
CONGRESSMEN -- THOMAS DOWNEY AND ROBERT CARR -- TOLD PRESS
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CONFERENCE THEY WOULD SUPPORT FOUR BILLION DOLLARS IN JET
INTERCEPTORS AND RADAR TO COUNTER BACKFIRE BOMBER. CARR
SAID HE AND DOWNEY, WHO OPPOSED EXPENSIVE MILITARY PROGRAMS
SUCH AS B-1 BOMBER, NOW WANT AN IMPROVED U.S. AIR DEFENSE
SYSTEM TO COUNTER PERCEIVED BACKFIRE THREAT BECAUSE THEY
FEEL SOLUTION TO IT WITHIN SALT "IS UNATTAINABLE." CARR
SAID "BACKFIRE ISSUE IS GHOST AND HOBGOBLIN. IF THREAT

EXISTS IT HAS BEEN CREATED BY THOSE WHO WOULD LIKE TO DESTROY SALT." CARR AND DOWNEY, UPI REPORTED, REJECTED 10 BILLION DOLLAR PROGRAM CALLING FOR 500 INTERCEPTOR AIRCRAFT BUT SUPPORTED "MEDIUM COST" PROGRAM OF ABOUT FOUR BILLION DOLLARS TO INCLUDE IMPROVED GROUND RADAR STATIONS, AWACS RADAR PLANES, AND 100 TO 120 NEW F-14 OR F-15 JET FIGHTERS. "WE ARE WILLING TO ACCEPT AND ACTIVELY SUPPORT" SUCH PLAN "NOT BECAUSE OF ITS INTRINSIC MERIT BUT BECAUSE IT IS SMALL PRICE TO PAY FOR SALT RATIFICATION." UPI SAID ADMINISTRATION ACCEPTANCE OF SOVIET REFUSAL TO COUNT BACK-

FIRE AS STRATEGIC WEAPON HAS CAUSED MAJOR CONGRESSIONAL OPPOSITION TO PARTIALLY COMPLETED SALT TWO TREATY.

2. IN TWO-PART SERIES IN BALTIMORE SUN, MICHAEL LEDEEN, EXECUTIVE EDITOR OF WASHINGTON REVIEW OF STRATEGIC AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES, SAID "IT IS CONCEPTUALLY WRONG AND POLITICALLY DANGEROUS FOR PRESIDENT TO BEHAVE AS IF HE WERE IN SOME WAY EXPLANATION FOR BEHAVIOR OF LEADERS OF KREMLIN." LEDEEN POINTED OUT "JIMMY CARTER APPARENTLY BELIEVES THAT EVENTS OF RECENT MONTHS HAVE BEEN PRIMARILY RESPONSE TO HIM AND TO HIS IDEAS. THUS, COURT CONVICTIONS OF DISSIDENTS, REJECTION OF OUR INITIATIVES IN SALT AND SOVIET HARASSMENT OF AMERICAN JOURNALISTS IN MOSCOW HAVE ALL BEEN INTERPRETED AS REBUFFS TO THIS ADMINISTRATION. MOST CHARITABLE STATEMENT THAT CAN BE MADE ABOUT SUCH INTER-UNCLASSIFIED

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PRETATIONS IS THAT THEY SHOW LACK OF HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE, FOR THERE IS NOTHING STARTLING ABOUT SOVIET BEHAVIOR....ON SALT, THERE WAS NO REASON TO BELIEVE THAT RUSSIANS WOULD MAKE DRAMATIC CONCESSIONS IN FIELD IN WHICH THEIR SUPERIORITY IS BECOMING CLEARER EVERY YEAR, AND WHERE THEY HAVE EVERY REASON TO PUSH THEIR ADVANTAGE." LEDEEN CHARGED THAT "ESSENTIAL FAILURES OF VISION IN THIS ADMINISTRATION ARE LACK OF PERSPECTIVE ON TIME NECESSARY TO PURSUE AN EFFECTIVE HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN AND OVERALL SIGNIFICANCE OF AMERICAN POWER. NO MATTER HOW BADLY FRIGHTENED USSR MAY BE BY SUCH CAMPAIGN, IT CANNOT BE EXPECTED TO ABANDON ITS OWN STRATEGY AFTER FEW AMERICAN SPEECHES. HUMAN RIGHTS WEAPON MUST BE DISPLAYED RELENTLESSLY AND MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY OTHER MEASURES OF SHOW SERIOUSNESS OF OUR PURPOSE." LEDEEN SAID ADMINISTRATION'S MESSAGE IS ALL TOO CLEAR. "WE MAY COMPLAIN FROM TIME TO TIME ABOUT SOVIET BEHAVIOR, BUT WE WILL DO NOTHING. WEAKER COUNTRIES, ON OTHER HAND, WILL HAVE TO ENDURE NOT ONLY MORAL LECTURES, BUT REPRISALS AS WELL....STRONG TYRANNIES LIKE SOVIET UNION WILL ONLY GET LECTURES." LEDEEN MAINTAINED THAT SOVIETS "HAVE EFFECTIVELY DEMONSTRATED THAT THEY CAN 'STAND UP' TO U.S. AND PAY NO PRICE FOR THEIR TRANS-

GRESSIONS."

3. AS PART OF WASHINGTON POST REPORTS ON PROBLEMS AND PROSPECTS IN THIRD WORLD NATIONS, STAFF WRITER-J.P. SMITH SURVEYED DEVELOPMENTS IN IRAQ AS FIRST OF WHAT ULTIMATELY MAY BE HUNDREDS OF BILLIONS OF PETRODOLLARS BEGIN FLOWING INTO ITS TREASURY. IS IRAQ STRIVING TO ACQUIRE NUCLEAR WEAPON CAPABILITY? SMITH ASKED. HE NOTED THAT FRANCE IS HELPING IRAQ CONSTRUCT 70-MEGAWATT OSIRIS RESEARCH REACTOR, ON OUTSKIRTS OF BAGHDAD. "THESE REACTORS IN FRANCE ARE

PRESENTLY FUELED WITH 93 PERCENT ENRICHED URANIUM -- SUFFICIENT ENRICHMENT FOR USE IN MANUFACTURING AN ATOMIC BOMB. FRENCH OFFICIALS, WHO ARE DEVELOPING NEW FUEL FOR UNCLASSIFIED

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OSIRIS REACTORS THAT COULD NOT BE DIVERTED FOR USE IN PRODUCING BOMB, NERVOUSLY CONCEDE THEY HAVE HEARD RUMORS THAT IRAQ IS INTERESTED IN NUCLEAR WEAPONS." SMITH SAID IRAQI OFFICIALS HE INTERVIEWED POINTED OUT THAT IRAQ IS SIGNATORY TO NPT. "ALL DECLINE HOWEVER, TO FLATLY RULE OUT FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS." NAIM HADAD, SENIOR MEMBER OF RULING REVOLUTIONARY COMMAND COUNCIL, TOLD SMITH "IF ISRAEL OWNS ATOM BOMB, THEN ARABS MUST GET AN ATOM BOMB. ARAB COUNTRIES SHOULD POSSESS WHATEVER IS NECESSARY TO DEFEND THEMSELVES." VANCE

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